SCA/22038/2005 1/7 JUDGMENT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No. 22038 of 2005

For Approval and Signature:

HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.M.MEHTA

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1 Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgment ?

2 To be referred to the Reporter or not ?

3 Whether their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgment ?

4 Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the constitution of India, 1950 or any order made thereunder ?

5 Whether it is to be circulated to the civil judge ?

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VALLABH PREMJIBHAI DEVIPUJAK - Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF GUJARAT & 2 - Respondent(s)

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Appearance :
MS KRISHNA U MISHRA for Petitioner(s) : 1,
RULE SERVED BY DS for Respondent(s) : 1 - 2.
GOVERNMENT PLEADER for Respondent(s) : 3,
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CORAM : HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.M.MEHTA

Date : 16/12/2005

ORAL JUDGMENT

1. Vallabh Premjibhai Devipujak-petitioner-detenu has filed this habeas corpus petition under

Article 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India challenging order of detention dated 22.09.2005 passed by Police Commissioner, Rajkot city under the provisions of the Gujarat Prevention of Anti-social Activities Act, 1985 (for short 'PASA Act') which is illegal, null, void and also violative of Article 14, 19, 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India. The present petition was filed on 04.10.2005 and this Court issued RULE on 28.10.2005 which was made returnable after four weeks and that is why this matter has come up before this Court for hearing and final disposal.

2. Heard, Ms. Krishna U. Mishra, learned Advocate for the petitioner and Mr. Pujari, learned A.G.P. in this behalf. Ms. Mishra, learned Advocate for the petitioner has invited my attention to the order of detention and committal order dated 22.09.2005 by which petitioner-detenu was arrested and sent to District Jail, Nadiad.

3. Learned Advocate for the petitioner has further invited my attention to the grounds supplied in the

order of detention. As the grounds of detention three criminal cases have been shown as registered against the petitioner-detenu. First offence being registered as C.R. No.344/2005 at 'B' Divison police station dated 11.08.2005 punishable under Section 447, 379 and 114 of the Indian Penal Code. In that case it was alleged that the petitioner-detenu committed theft of iron waste weighing about 300 kilogram valued at Rs.3,000/- and the same was recovered by the authority along with one 'Chakdo' Rickshaw valued at Rs.45,000/-. Second offence being registered as C.R. No.345/2005 at 'B' Divison police station dated 11.08.2005 punishable under Section 447, 379 and 114 of the Indian Penal Code. In that case it was alleged that the petitioner-detenu committed theft of 'Pital' utensil waste weighing about 35 kilogram valued at Rs.4,200/- and the same was recovered by the authority. Third offence being registered as C.R. No.346/2005 at 'B' Division police station dated 12.08.2005 punishable under Section 447, 379 and 114 of the Indian Penal Code. In that case it was alleged that the petitioner-detenu committed theft of iron waste weighing about 100 kilogram valued at

Rs.1,000/- and the same was recovered by the authority.

4. Learned Advocate for the petitioner further stated that in the order of detention it was stated that the petitioner-detenu is carrying on anti-social activities and on the basis of three offences registered against the petitioner-detenu he was termed as 'Dangerous Person' within the meaning of Section 2(c) of the PASA Act. It was also stated that as said anti-social activities of the detenu are dangerous and affecting maintenance of 'public order' and 'public health', order of detention has been passed.

5. Learned Advocate for the petitioner has further stated that on the basis of three criminal cases registered against the petitioner-detenu, he cannot be termed as 'Dangerous Person'. In support of this learned Advocate for the petitioner has placed reliance on the judgment of the apex Court in the case of Piyush Kantilal Mehta Vs. Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad City & Another reported in AIR 1989

SC 491. Learned Advocate for the petitioner has also placed reliance on Division Bench judgment of this Court in L.P.A. No.1139 of 1999 (Coram: Acting C.J., C.K. Thakkar(as his lordship was then) & K.M. Mehta, J.) decided on 04.10.1999 in the case of Ashokbhai Jivraj @ Jivabhai Solanki Vs. Police Commissioner, Surat & Others reported in 2000 (1) GLH 393.

6. Heard, Mr. Pujari, learned A.G.P. for respondent-detaining authority and he has filed affidavit of one Mr. K. Nityanandam, Police Commissioner, Rajkot City and has tried to defend the order of detention as well as grounds stated therein.

7. I have also heard learned Counsel for both the parties and after perusal of the record, I am of the view that the detaining authority has passed the order of detention without there being any credible or cogent material on record in this behalf. I have also considered factual and legal aspects emerging from the record of the petition and considered the rival submissions and the facts of the case and also judgment of the apex Court in the case of Piyush

Kantilal Mehta(Supra) and also Division Bench judgment of this Court in the case of Ashokbhai Jivraj(Supra). In view of the facts and circumstances of the present case and also ratio laid down in the cases mentioned above, the order of detention cannot be sustained.

8. In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the view that in this case only material remains is three criminal cases registered against the detenu and on the basis of that it cannot be said that activity of the detenu has become a threat to the maintenance of 'public order' and 'public health'.

9. In the result, this petition is allowed and order of detention dated 22.09.2005 passed by Police Commissioner, Rajkot city is hereby quashed and set aside. Vallabh Premjibhai Devipujak -detenu is, therefore, ordered to be set at liberty forthwith if he is not required in connection with any other case by the authority. Rule is made absolute to the aforesaid extent with no order as to costs. Direct

service is permitted.

(K.M.MEHTA,J.)

Umesh/-